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UP FRONT

Elk Point Chamber of Commerce puts more emphasis on business with new agenda.....Page 3

SPORTS

Peewee Avalanche played host to this weekend's crowd pleasing six team tournament.....Page 12



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Vol. 38 No. 11

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

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CHANGING PLACES - Elk Point Community Choir director Udo Mueller took over the keyboard from pianist Sheila Hatch, who took over her daughter Rebecca's page turning duties, as Mueller's daughter Kelsey Taylor conducted the choir in 'Walkin' Down the Road to Bethlehem'.

Vicki Brooker photo

Choir winds up 29th year with concert

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Elk Point Community Choir has had a busy end to their 29th year of entertainment. In recent weeks, according to choir director Udo Mueller, they have performed at the Roman Catholic cathedral, Extendingcare, Sunnyside Manor and the Latter Day Saints church in St. Paul, as well as at Beauvallon Seventh Day Adventist Church and at the Bonnyville Choir Festival. On Friday evening they took the stage at their home venue, the Elk Point Arts and Leisure Centre for their annual Christmas Concert.

"We have been retelling the message of Christ's birth... in a season full of clamor and tinsel... a somewhat incongruous celebration of such a quiet, private event," Mueller said.

"Christmas", Don Conrad said in his words of welcome, "is a time of gorgeous celebrations" for ethnic, religious and cultural groups who celebrate according to their traditions.

(Continued on Page 2)

County council denies request for CNRL tax break

CLARE GAUVREAU
Review Staff

The County of St. Paul council has denied a request from Canadian Natural Resources Limited (CNRL) for a tax reduction on the company's properties in the municipality for 2020.

CNRL met behind closed doors with county council in September seeking the tax relief, however, council made no decision at the time, deferring the request until it had an opportunity to discuss it during budget deliberations.

A 30 per cent tax break would amount to \$2,284,261, based on the 2019 tax levy.

In making the motion to deny the request at last Tuesday's council meeting, Coun. Darrell Youngmans said council recognizes the economic spinoff CNRL operations have in the area but given the economic climate and the recent decision by the county to declare an agricultural disaster, the tax break isn't feasible.

"When we consider the whole picture, at this time we have to deny it."

The motion received unanimous support from council.

Interim budget

Council approved an interim budget for 2020 with operating and capital revenues pegged at \$34.6 million. Operations expenditures are forecast to be \$28 million and capital expenditures are budgeted for

\$12.1 million. The interim budget, with a surplus of \$31,479, will cease to have effect once the final operating budget for 2020 is approved in the new year.

Library boards

Council said no to a 1.5 per cent increase in funding requested by the Northern Lights Library Board for its 2020 operations. The increase would amount to \$517 more than 2019 based on a per capita levy of \$5.23 per capita. The county's municipal levy in 2019 amounted to \$33,310. Council had also previously denied a two per cent funding increase request to the board.

Coun. Laurent Amyotte said the board will have to take \$406,000 out of its reserves for operations if they don't see an increase in contributions next year from municipalities and member library boards.

Coun. Maxine Fodness noted that "lots of little libraries are having trouble" funding their operations.

Meanwhile, the council was happy to accept the fact that the County of St. Paul Library Board is not seeking an increase in funding for 2020. The budget request of \$133,955 is equal to that of 2019 and was approved.

Economic development

While it may be the season of giving, council was not eager to support a \$5,000 contribution to the Elk Point Economic Development Committee, choosing instead to table the matter until more information was made available as to how it would benefit the county.

"Seems like we are giving and giving," Coun. Amyotte said.

"Are they benefitting economic development in the county?" Coun. Youngmans questioned.

Coun. Kevin Wirsta, who was appointed to represent the county on the Elk Point committee, said the funds will support strategies to attract new business and bring in speakers to the community.

"How do you put a dollar value on it?" he said in response to Youngmans. "We are all trying to get this economic development going."

"It just seems like we are spending more money on things that are out of our hands, like the oil prices," Coun. Hedrick said.

Police funding

With word from the provincial government that municipalities who previously haven't paid for RCMP policing services will start paying in 2020, the county was informed by CAO Sheila Kitz of the anticipated costs to the county, based on a provincial funding model.

Kitz provided council with a five-year outline of what those policing costs will look like: 2020 - \$166,790, 2021 - \$250,364, 2022 - \$333,580, 2023 - \$500,728 and 2024 - \$500,728.

Meanwhile, the Rural Municipalities Association is hoping to convince the government to defer the plan by one year, so the costs don't start kicking in until 2021.

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HIGHLIGHTS

December 20, 2019 Council Meeting

County Transfer Stations will close at noon on December 24 and reopen on December 28

2020 Interim Municipal Budget – As per section 242(2) of the MGA, Council approved the 2020 Interim Operating and Capital Budget:

Capital & Operating Revenues	\$34,570,653
Debenture & Funding From Restricted Surplus	\$6,667,466
Operating Expenditures	\$28,043,438
Replacement Reserve	\$256,000
Debenture Repayment	\$801,324
Capital Expenditures	\$12,105,878
Surplus	\$31,479

Water Rate Changes - The Utility Bylaw was approved with new water rates resulting from a \$0.04 increase being charged by the Highway 28/63 Water Commission affecting residents in the hamlets of Ashmont, Lottie Lake and Mallaig as well as rural customers along the water line from Spedden. The residents along the water line from Elk Point to St. Paul will see a \$0.11 decrease in their rates, based on the Elk Point/St. Paul Regional Water Commission. These new rates are effective January 1, so residents will see the change on their February Billing.

Fee Schedule Bylaw was amended. The key changes include –

- marginal rate increases for 4-yard, 6-yard and roll off waste bins effective February 1st
- fire call rates align with Alberta Transportation rates
- damage deposits for all ASB Equipment Rentals have increased
- camping rates for weekly and monthly (at designated site)

Updated bylaws can be viewed in their entirety on the County website under “Bylaws/Policies”.

Bilateral and Multilateral Recreation Agreements – Council approved a Bilateral Recreation Agreement with the Town of St. Paul and the Town of Elk Point to jointly cost share the net operating costs for all Class B Facilities, not including any capital expenditures. In the Multilateral Recreation Agreement with the Towns of St. Paul and Elk Point and Summer Village of Horseshoe Bay the municipalities will jointly cost share the operation of the Class “A” facilities in the region. These facilities are described in the Regional Recreation Master Plan as facilities unique to the region, being used by residents in all four municipalities and municipally owned.

Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) – A new requirement of the Municipal Government Act is for municipalities with common boundaries to create an Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework. The framework identifies the services provide by each municipality, which services are best provided on an intermunicipal basis and how these services will be delivered and funded. ICFs have now been completed with all neighbouring rural and urban municipalities. The documents can be viewed on the County website.

Funding Support:

- \$500 each - Mallaig School Senior Girls, Regional High School Boys to attend Provincial Volleyball
- \$7,800 - CG Baker Arena
- \$15,000 - Elk Point Curling Club
- \$30,000 - AG Ross Arena
- \$110,630 MSI Operational Funding distributed to Ag Societies and Community Halls throughout the Municipality

Christmas Hours – The County Office and Public Works Shop will close at noon on December 24 and will reopen January 2nd.

For more information, contact
Sheila Kitz, CAO, County of St. Paul
At 780-645-3301, ext 208
www.county.stpaul.ab.ca



THREE RUSTY MUSICIANS - Udo Mueller, Dave Holmberg and Natalie Stinn provided some great music to enjoy along with the choir's lunch treats.

Choir

(Continued from Front Page)

Christmas “is also a time of reflection,” he noted. “We reflect on the past and the present, and have optimistic hopes for the future.”

The choir’s past has seen them sing in far away countries, as well as communities close to home, he said, in facilities that ranged “from castles to a cow barn.” Membership in the choir has changed over the years as well. “Some left because of work, but we have lost far too many who are now with the angels.” One of the most recent losses was Ernie Trynchuk, who passed

away earlier this year and is sadly missed by the choir. “We dedicate this concert to him.”

The most recent addition to the choir is new page-turner Rebecca Hatch, daughter of pianist Sheila Hatch, Conrad said, adding that Mueller’s daughter Kelsey Taylor also takes her turn both at the piano and the podium.

Next year, Conrad added, former choir members will be “seconded” to return to the Arts and Leisure stage for a special celebration marking the choir’s 30th anniversary.

It is a tradition for the choir to open every concert with their a capella number, ‘Just Let Me

Sing!’, and Friday’s show was no exception. With Hatch at the piano, they followed with the lyrical stylings of ‘On a December Night’, before she relinquished the keyboard to Mueller, who accompanied the choir in the up tempo number, ‘Walkin’ Down the Road to Bethlehem’, with Taylor taking over the director’s duties.

Hatch returned to the piano for the next six numbers, starting with a gentle reminder to ‘Always Believe’, followed by ‘A Christmas Canticle’, the traditional ‘Do You Hear What I Hear?’ with Kelsey Taylor keeping time with the finger cymbals in that one and switching to the hand drum to keep time to ‘Hear the Bells.’

‘Grant Us Peace’, in both the traditional Latin and English, and ‘Following the Star to Bethlehem,’ with both choir and audience snapping fingers in time to the music, wound up the first half of the concert.

The audience also had the opportunity to do some singing, led by Mueller in four favourite Christmas songs before the choir returned to their places.

Mueller started off the second half by telling the audience he had “discovered a hidden gem” while choosing potential songs for the concert. ‘Winter Is At Hand’ was written by none other than poet and playwright William Shakespeare, and was found by Mueller to have “some gripping lines” that caught his attention.

The choir then sang ‘A Choral Benediction’ before being joined on stage by a number of former members for the final song of the evening, ‘Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)’.

Mueller was not done entertaining the crowd, however. He and two fellow members of the St. Paul and District Arts Foundation’s Rusty Musicians tuned up their instruments for a series of classic instrumentals, as the audience lined up to enjoy a sumptuous lunch provided by the choir members, which has become another cherished Community Choir tradition.

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Chamber moves to more business emphasis

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Elk Point and District Chamber of Commerce moved to a new agenda format at their final meeting of 2019, with a new category entitled 'Business Talk' coming right after a quick run-through of finances and operations.

Bob Bezpalko of Northeast Alberta HUB was first on the Business agenda, and was sorry to report that the Rural Alberta Business Centre in Cold Lake, which has served this area for several years, and whose representative, Lisa Ford, attended the Oct. 2 chamber meeting, will be closing at the end of the year, as additional funding was no longer available. Ford has accepted a new position as manager of Community Futures in Bonnyville.

Chamber president Terri Hampson told the chamber she has tracked down a provincial government website listing community grants and programs that could be accessed by businesses and organizations.

"There used to be a red book of available grants," Town of Elk Point CAO Ken Gwozdz added, noting that the website may have taken its place. He indicated that he is willing to help prepare grant applications, and said the town is doing partnership grants that will have an impact on volunteer groups. "Let me know if you need some help."

Town recreation director Cristin Tchir noted that some of the tourism funding has been put on hold, while Bezpalko noted that available grants have "lots of focus on women."

Gwozdz didn't have any concrete information to share on the police funding that has been reported. "We don't know where it's going, it's a floating target, but we're thinking it could cost \$24,000 to \$30,000 and much more for bigger communities." Communities under 5,000 population "didn't pay before... but the province listened to the input they were given on rural crime, and agreed that we need more boots on the ground."

He added that St. Paul has already been paying for policing, and that the Association of Urban Municipalities of Alberta "is asking that it start in 2021, because the municipalities have already done their budget."

Town holds line on utilities

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Elk Point town council voted Monday night to hold the line on utility costs in 2020, at least for now.

The 2019 rates of \$60 per month for basic water, up to 14 cubic meters, with \$4 per cubic meter over 14 cubic meters, \$17 per month for basic sewer and \$15 per month for garbage collection all mirror the 2019 rates, as does the \$7 per month for water meter replacement, which has been in place for the past three years. The water meter fees have been placed in a water meter account, with some already used to install the meter heads in new buildings or when meters required replacement.

That \$7 per month fee could be removed later in the year, when the cost of replacing all the old water meters with electronic meter heads is completed.

The new technology will allow town staff to read meters simply by driving by the homes and businesses where they are located, rather than physically reading each meter on that property.

Council approved a motion at their Nov. 25 meeting to enter into a contract with Neptune Technology Group to replace the remaining current meter heads throughout the town at a cost of \$206,250, with the work to be completed in 2020.

Please watch for more Town Council news in our Dec. 24 edition.



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Referring to the handout included in the agenda regarding Elk Point's interim budget, Gwozdz said there has already been a four per cent drop in assessment in this past July's assessment, "and we're anticipating that it could be another 8.7 per cent less this coming year. Council has gone over the budget line by line and has cut staff." He clarified the projected capital expenses for the members, noting that "we will only do the lift station if we get the grants."

One project on the Economic Development Council's to-do list is a map showing the town's businesses, and Hampson has created a map which she said is "95 per cent done, with more edits to come." Shirley Harms, who is also part of the EDC, said she feels the map will assist the businesses, but she would like to see the home businesses listed separately from those who have business premises.

Tourism

Both Hampson and Tchir sit on the recently formed St. Paul/Elk Point Tourism Initiative Committee, which is looking for an Elk Point business representative to fill a currently vacant position.

Kevin Kisilevich of Go East of Edmonton was this month's guest speaker, and was congratulated on that company's digital marketing award from Travel Alberta, which he said usually "goes to cities and mountains. We almost didn't apply."

Events

Hampson is already looking ahead to the 2020 Spring Fundraiser, and asked that ideas be brought to the next meeting, when a subcommittee will be formed.

The Christmas Extravaganza and Shop Local Week went well, with more than 20 businesses and agencies playing a role, either in monetary or merchandise donation or in taking part in the events. Marie Srdic and Levina Ewasiuk were the winners of the major prizes on Extravaganza evening, and another dozen winners taking home prizes from the Shop Local Week draw.

Hampson drew the name of Lionel Romanchuk as the winner of the 2020 chamber membership for his participation in the Winter Wonderland Parade. The invitation for the public to vote for their favourites in the Best Dressed

Business contest drew mixed response, with few actually checking out the businesses and others suggesting that photos of the businesses should have been put on the chamber's website for voting, which had not been done because the idea of the contest was for the public to actually visit the businesses and see the decorations in person. An outline of

a proposed update for next year's Best Dressed Business contest has now been received and is being considered.

Residential Christmas decorations will now be judged by the public as well, with a team from the Recreation Committee choosing their favourite entries, which will then go on the town's website for voting.



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EDITORIAL

It's almost here!

Just one week to Christmas Eve, and it's one of the busiest weeks of the year, with concerts and festivities everywhere.

We will try to fit all those activities in, along with more news from this week, in our December 24 Christmas Eve edition.

In the meantime, stay calm and shop local!

RECREATION CORNER

Residential lights judged tomorrow

CRISTIN TCHIR
Recreation Director

On the evening of December 18th, the Recreation Committee will be driving around and choosing the top three residential Christmas lights display for our Christmas lights contest. They will be posted on the Town of Elk Point's Facebook page for you all to vote, so be sure to check our page. If you do not have Facebook you can look on the Town's website, elkpoint.ca, scroll all the way to the bottom, there you'll see the Facebook post. First place prize is \$150, second is \$100 and third is \$75.

I was curious to why we decorate our homes, so I did a little research. The tradition stems from lighting the Christmas tree with candles, which dates to the 17th century. European Christians would display a burning candle in their window, so it was visible to the outside. The candle in the window indicated that this was a Christian home and an invitation to other Christians to worship with the residents.

Kind of makes you feel warm inside doesn't it? The lights represent a safe place. So, while you are driving around this holiday season, keep that in mind. Have a safe and Merry Christmas everyone!

From the Hack

JOANNE WARAWA
Elk Point Curling Club

It's hard to believe this is our last week of curling before the Christmas break!! After three weeks of play, this week's team of the week hasn't lost a game and is tied for first place with the JPD team. Every year since I've curled in Elk Point the Lindquist rink has been one to beat. Brothers Jim and Doug Lindquist take turns skipping, the second is none other than the Sportshound Doug Bassett and the lead duties are shared by Jim's son Travis and wife Cheri. Just as valuable off the ice, these guys are all active volunteers for the club.

This week we'll be having our Annual Christmas potluck on Wednesday night and we encourage everyone to wear their best ugliest Christmas sweater!



TEAM OF THE WEEK, left to right: Doug Lindquist, Jim Lindquist, Travis Lindquist, Doug Bassett.



WAY BACK WHEN...

Christmas bustle, heaping hamper, barn burner, snowbound sidewalks

HERE'S THE NEWS THAT MADE THE HEADLINES OF THE LAKELAND REVIEW AND ELK POINT REVIEW FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 17 IN...

1984

The Christmas bustle hit Elk Point, with blizzard conditions and arctic air ignored as area residents took in the Lions Pancake Breakfast with Santa, The Cubs and Scouts tree sale, the Elks Lodges-sponsored free movie at the Arrow Theatre, Ukrainian Dance Club Christmas Tea and other Christmas festivities. Owners of mobile homes located on temporary lots were given one month's notice by town council to relocate, now that the new mobile home subdivision was complete.

1989

Elk Point Elementary School students presented a heaping hamper of groceries and a cheque for \$115 from the school's hot lunch sales to Santas Anonymous, to help out less fortunate families in the area. Elk Point Historical Society was set for a new decade, as they began planning to present 1990 tourist traffic with mural brochures and souvenir pins and taking the first steps toward planning for the 1992 Bicentennial of Fort George and Buckingham House although reconstruction of the historic sites was still just a future goal for the group.

1994

Elk Point Community Choir was almost 70 voices strong as they presented their annual Christmas Concert to two capacity crowds, with three sets of numbers by the choir, quartets and a vocal duet joined by John Bennett on piano and a pair pantomiming making popcorn over a roaring fire to ward off cabin fever. Two Hills Eagles topped the Elk Point Novice Hockey tournament, with the Elk Point No. 2 squad as A side runners up.

The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.

1999

A balmy evening, with music floating on the air, brightly coloured lights from one end of Main Street to the other, a crackling bonfire and the laughter of delighted children were all part of the biggest and best Christmas Extravaganza of the century. Elk Point Midget Girls Storm hosted a barn-burner of a tournament, with Dewberry winning the final over Vermilion, and more great action coming early in the new year when the Storm would host the Female Midget Provincials.

2004

Elk Point Chamber of Commerce Christmas Extravaganza Committee members spent a long evening counting and tallying a total of 2,944 draw slips deposited during the Nov. 26 event, and discovered 70.6 per cent of shoppers came from Elk Point and area, 9.5 per cent from St. Paul and 8.9 per cent from Heinsburg, Fishing Lake and Frog Lake. Heinsburg Elementary students hosted a merry little concert complete with shepherds, angels, and students compiling their Christmas lists in rhyme.

2009

Elk Point Community Choir celebrated the first Christmas in their new home with a well-attended concert despite the record cold temperatures outdoors. County council made the decision to begin the process of applying for Water for Life grants for two new water lines that would supply Elk Point and Lottie Lake with water from the St. Paul water treatment plant.

2014

A highway sidewalk policy was put in place at last Monday's town council meeting that closes the sidewalks on both sides of Highway 41 to foot traffic to keep the sidewalk available for snowplows to pile snow and keep all four lanes of the highway open through town after council agreed that keeping the sidewalks open was "unrealistic." Gift-bearing Wise Men, shepherds and a tiny angel gathered at the manger to celebrate the birth of the most wondrous gift of all, Jesus, as six churches gathered at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church for the annual Inter-Denominational Cantata.

Elk Point REVIEW

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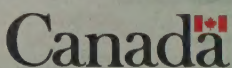
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EXCELLENT REPRESENTATION from area churches contributed to the Christmas Cantata, with two groups sharing their heritage. At left, five ladies sang traditional Filipino carols, and above right, Olga Seniuk, Lawrence Pidluzny and Mary Bezpalko shared two Ukrainian carols. Above left, Gabrielle Bayduza on accordion, Irwin Panganiban on piano and Tom Valleau on recorder accompany the choir as they sang 'Silent Night' in many languages, under the direction of Margaret Bayduza, far right.

Eight churches sing of Christmas

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Eight churches from four communities took part in this year's Elk Point Inter-denominational Christmas Cantata on Sunday, Dec. 8, which was once again held in St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church.

Singers and musicians from St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, Derwent Ukrainian Catholic Church and Elk Point's Baptist, United and Christian Community Churches, Glad Tidings Pentecostal Assembly in Vermilion and Myrmam Community Church joined the host church in presenting a two hour program of carols and scripture readings, under the direction of Margaret Bayduza. Pianists Gabrielle Bayduza and Irwin Panganiban, along with drummer Ethan Goulet, Tom Valleau on recorder and Gabrielle Bayduza on accordion accompanied the singers, who were introduced by MC David Cardinal.

The combined choir entered the sanctuary to 'People Look East' before Fr. Gerard Gauthier offered words of welcome and an opening prayer. The choir opened the program with 'The Hushing Carols', with tiny Heidi Sibal as soloist.

Piano solos by Ava and Nemiah Goulet and a scripture reading by Lauren Smith from Luke 2:1-7 were followed by Olga Seniuk, Mary Bezpalko and Lawrence Pidluzny with two traditional Ukrainian Christmas carols, 'God Eternal' and 'There is Joy in Bethlehem.'

Two numbers by the choir, 'All Poor Men and Humble' and 'God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen' and the congregation's 'What Child is This?' were

followed by the next seven verses in the Biblical story of the Holy Family's journey to Bethlehem, read by Heidi Sibal. Another song by the congregation, 'Angels We Have Heard on High,' and the 'Huron Christmas Carol', by the choir with Ethan Goulet on drum, preceded a beautiful recorder solo, 'Ave Maria' by Tom Valleau.

The congregation joined in singing 'Good King Wenceslas' and the choir presented 'There's A Star in the East' before Heidi Sibal and Derwin Panganiban, accompanied by Irwin Panganiban, performed the children's choir number, 'Calling All Kids at Christmas'. They were followed by yet another choir, this one consisting of five ladies singing a series of Filipino Christmas carols.

A vocal solo featured Mitch Goulet, singing 'Make Room', before Irwin Panganiban on piano and Gabrielle Bayduza on accordion accompanied the choir in 'Above on the Mountain', featuring solos by Sheena Panganiban. Elizabeth Smith read the final six verses of the scripture from Luke 2, the congregation continuing the story with 'The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy' and the choir adding the story of one of the visitors at the manger, 'The Little Drummer Boy,' with Darwin Panganiban speaking on behalf of the drummer boy.

The congregation sang 'Joy to the World' before Fr. Gauthier closed with the benediction and the choir was joined by the congregation in the many-language version of 'Silent Night' which has become a tradition at the many years of the Cantata.

Peace on Earth

We're sending you our Very Best
and Hope Glad Tidings come
your way to Brighten Your
Holiday Season

Merry Christmas and
Best Wishes for the New Year!



County of St. Paul
Council and Staff

County Offices will be
closed from
December 24 at noon
to January 1



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We are so appreciative of your support throughout the year!

"THANK YOU"
to our clients, friends and associates for being a part of our success!
We look forward to serving you with all your real estate needs in 2020!

FREE 2020 CALENDARS

Congratulations to our Extravaganza Prize Winners:
Fern Sinclair (candy jar count), Cristin Tchir, Brad Campbell, Lyn Young, Jody Brenzan, Renita Senz; Children's: Brooklyn Newby, Ryder Labrie, Ella May
In lieu of Christmas cards, we have donated to Santa's Anonymous.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Your Local Sports Hound
Doug Bassett

All the best in 2020!

TML?

At this Holiday Season, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our success possible.

Thank you to our clients, friends and colleagues.
We look forward to serving our community and surrounding areas with all your real estate needs in 2020.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

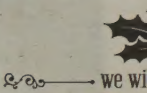
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 **MI**

Christmas Is

The holiday season is here
and we hope the joy and peace
fill your heart and home.

As we count down to Christmas Day, we'd like to express our appreciation for you and make our year special in so many ways. Your visits are always welcome and we'll be serving you this holiday season, and for years to come.



mas Coming!

It is in the air,
goodwill of the season
ful with gladness.

our sincere gratitude to everyone who has helped
trust mean so much to us, and we look forward to
more to come. Merry Christmas to you!

Partial view of a Christmas card with the word "mas" visible.

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Partial view of a Christmas card with the word "mas" visible.

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IT TAKES A MULTITUDE to tell the story of Christmas when that story starts with creation, as explained by the young scientists at Elk Point Baptist Church's 'Stories of the Saviour', right. Above, Miss Becki's class sings 'Rise and Shine.'



Baptist Christmas story starts with creation

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

A pair of scientists, who on weekdays are Mark Rivera and Lane Peters, led the exploration of the eons of time that one usually never thinks about in regards to Christmas, as a huge cast of Elk Point Baptist Church young people presented 'Stories of the Saviour' on Sunday, Dec. 8.

The Christmas story, they said, "Doesn't start with the New Testament, but at the beginning of creation."

Sarah Joy Guerzon, Alex Noel, Tamilore Oyeboode, Jan Denver Apigo, Elijah Speirs and Joy Ashaolu told of the six days of creation, at the end turning their numbered placards around to read 'rested' for the seventh day.

Adam and Eve portrayed by Trayden Gadwa and Angel Gadwa-Bernard, when confronted by the Angel Gabriel (Robyn Urquhart) weren't willing to take the blame for the apple incident, but Noah (Aaden Noel) found favor in the eyes of the Lord and built an ark, and Abraham (Jan Denver Apigo) obeyed the Lord's word.

The scientists delved into genealogy, saying that Abraham was the great, great, great, great, etc., grandfather of Jesus, and David (Duanne Rivera), a good

hand with a slingshot, was also a forebear. "This all leads up to the birth of Jesus," the scientists said.

Mary's story was "a deeply personal one," they said. Mary (Nemiah Goulet) was visited by the angel Gabriel, and John's story "started before he was born," when Zachariah (Alex Noel) learned from Gabriel that his previously barren wife Elizabeth (Leah Goodbrand) would conceive and give birth to John. Joseph (Trayden Gadwa) also learned of the coming birth of a Saviour from Gabriel. "Imagine learning that your son would be the Saviour of the world," the scientists said.

The innkeeper (Jan Denver Apigo) certainly didn't know he was giving housing to the Son of God in his stable when Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem.

Shepherds played by Elijah Speirs and Tamilore Oyeboode were visited by the angel (Jemimah Ashaolu) and the heavenly host (Ita Nichols, Morag-Beth Speirs and Addley Noel), and learning of the birth, traveled to the manger.

They were by far not the only visitors. Simeon (Duanne Rivera) who was told he would not die until he had seen the Saviour, actually held the holy baby in his arms, and the widow Anna (Ava Goulet) gave thanks to God.

The wise men, Sarah Joy Guerzon and Joy Ashaolu,

visited Herod (Aaden Noel) before heading to Bethlehem, but did not, as instructed, report back after presenting their gifts, having been warned in a dream of Herod's evil intentions. Joseph learned of the king's intentions from a visiting angel, and followed the instructions to escape to Egypt with Mary and Jesus, not to return to Nazareth until after Herod's death. There, Jesus grew to be an adult, and that, the scientists said. "Is only the beginning of the story."

Twelve musical numbers were presented by Micah Urquhart, Amanda Goodbrand, Nemiah Goulet, Miss Beck's tiny class of three, Leah Goodbrand, Sarah Joy Guerzon, Ava Goulet, Robyn Urquhart, Tamilore Oyeboode, Angel Gadwa-Bernard, Hannah Goodbrand and MJ Bretzer before, during and at the conclusion of the presentation, which also featured readings by Micah Urquhart, Josh Ashaolu, Victoria Goodbrand, Ryan Urquhart, Christine Guerzon, Casey Urquhart, Kady Bourne, Ethan Goulet, Landon Peters, Amanda Goodbrand, Logan Peters and Chantelle Guerzon.

Stories of the Saviour was introduced by Lois Doering and directed by Linda Peters, with the assistance of stage crew members Shirley Osinchuk, Rayah Doering, Hannah Goodbrand, Brenda Shephert, Bernie Kozicki, Lorna Giesbrecht, Amy Noel, Becki Doering and Tallyn Gadwa.



Merry Christmas

May the season fill your hearts with warmth, love, and joy!
Wishing you a blessed Christmas and New Year.

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Merry Christmas and Best Wishes in 2020 to you & yours!

Hope this holiday season delivers a rush of happiness! May it find you surrounded by love, friendship, goodwill and good times.

Thank you for making our year run so smoothly. We wouldn't be here without good friends and customers like all of you.

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Thank you for believing in us! It has been our pleasure to serve this community in 2019, and we wouldn't be here without your kind support.

We hope your Christmas is merry and bright in every way, and we look forward to seeing you again soon in the New Year!

Elk Point REVIEW

WARMEST WISHES TO OUR READERS!

Vicki & Mel
5022 - 49 Avenue, Elk Point
780-724-4087

Merry Christmas



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'Tis the time for family and friends!

Town of Elk Point
Mayor,
Council and Staff

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A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

The only Truth that matters

PASTOR JIM MACLELLAN
Elk Point Baptist Church

"You have your truth and I have my truth." It's a common statement today. "You just do you!" These are interesting sentiments, but the problem is that they are neither practical, nor real. If truth is relative it's not true. If it's true, it's true in Elk Point or Entwistle. If it's true, it's true in 2019 or 119. If it's true, it's true when you're 40 or 40 billion years from now. Truth is absolute, unchanging, universal and eternal. Truth does not awaken in the morning and declare that it identifies as something else. It is true.

So what does all this have to do with Christmas? At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus. He was born of a virgin and conceived by the Holy Spirit, as the ancient Creed affirms. God became flesh in the person of Jesus. The Apostles' Creed asserts that this same Jesus suffered under Pontius Pilate. This same Jesus having lived a perfect life was falsely accused of sedition and brought before the Roman governor, Pilate. In that conversation, we read this:

"You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." (John 18:37, NIV)

"The reason I was born was to testify, bear witness, to the truth." We celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmastime remembering that He came to show us the truth. Jesus used the definite pronoun: THE truth. There is but one truth. In fact He is not only the pointer to the Truth, He is the personification of Truth. "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" (John 14:6, NIV)

Humbly we emphasize that your truth and my truth are of little consequence. The only Truth that matters is found in who Jesus is and what He says. Truth is found in a person, Jesus the Christ, the Son of the living God. On behalf of the Elders and members of Elk Point Baptist Church we invite you to come to the Truth this Christmas and have a very Merry Christmas.



DECKING THE HALLS - Lyn Young and Pat Swedgan decorate one of the library's trees with Pat's vintage bubble lights, at left. Library staff have set out some great Christmas titles for patrons to enjoy, above. The miniature pioneer village, right, created by the late Betty Schaap, was the centrepiece for last week's Library Tea and can now be seen in the library's display case.

Christmas comes to Elk Point Municipal Library

The trees are decorated and all is calm and bright at Elk Point Municipal Library, so stop in and pick up your holiday favorites from the books, magazines and DVD collections. **REMINDER:** The library will be closed from Friday, Dec. 20 until Monday, Jan. 6.



Guardian

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Merry Christmas

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Santas Anonymous wraps up campaign

The Community Lions of Elk Point wrapped up their 2019 Santas Anonymous campaign on Friday, after gathering up all the overflowing collection boxes from local businesses and schools and shopping for a huge amount of groceries with the funds collected in lieu of Good Buy to Hunger bags at Cornerstone Co-op on Tuesday, Dec. 3.

Elk Point Elementary School collected 11 boxes of food for Santa's Anonymous with their annual food drive by playing the Gift of Giving Bingo. Each class is given a bingo sheet with various food items on it and they have to get a blackout to win the honorary winners title and a special treat. Elk Point Community Lions member Susan Frisby (below left) was at the school to accept this very welcome donation from Wellness Facilitator Doris Pindroch.



ELK POINT 4-H BEEF CLUB members, leaders and parents arrived at Elk Point Further Education after school to help fill hampers for 50 families. Earlier in the day, a number of other volunteers were on hand to help wrap all the gifts donated to this worthy cause.



July 1 will have fireworks!

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Elk Point's Canada Day Committee welcomed Coun. Tim Smereka, the new Town of Elk Point representative at their Dec. 2 meeting, who is taking over the position formerly held by Deputy Mayor Terri Hampson.

This month's meeting saw the committee approve estimates for the fireworks show, and the rental of the tropical bounce castle with slide that proved so popular last year, along with an upgrade from the double bungee run to a triple run, all from the same company, and approved the payment of the required deposits on all three.

With their original choice of a main stage entertainer no longer available, as he has moved back to the Maritimes, the committee checked out the music of Canadian country artist Ryan Lindsay. Lindsay, whose home town is Wainwright and who is a former wilderness guide, has performed on the Nashville North stage at the Calgary Stampede, been named Country 105's Rising Star in 2018, been in the top 10 of the Alberta Country Music Awards' male country artist of the year category and a finalist in Project Wild 2019, Alberta's artist development program. Negotiations are now underway to sign Lindsay for Elk Point's July 1 stage show.

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husband, father, grandfather
and great-grandfather.*Your heart of gold stopped beating**Two smiling eyes at rest,**God broke our hearts to prove**He only takes the Best.**The tears in our eyes will**wipe away,**But the love in our hearts**Will forever stay.*Loved and missed so very
much by Karen and Family.**IN MEMORIAM****IN LOVING MEMORY
MARSHALL EUGENE
MOROZIU**
FEB. 6, 1954 - DEC. 19, 2012

He lovingly nurtured

us and guided us,

His attitudes, values,

hopes and dreams

became part of us,

And though he is

gone his love for us,

Remains and

always will.

He lives on within

our hearts,

His spirit guides

us still,

His legacy of love that

he left us will be a

source of comfort and

strength for now

and forever.

Loved and missed

by wife Agnes; sons:

Robyn, Shaun

& Families;

Sister: Gladys

& Family

OBITUARY**VOGEL,
Mary**

November 10, 1919 -

December 15, 2019

With saddened hearts the
family of Mary Vogel (nee
Flasha) announce her peaceful
passing early in the morning
on Sunday, December 15 at the
age of 100 years, surrounded by
family members. Mary will be
lovingly remembered by her 3
sons, Edward (Ruth), Emil (Lois)
& Chester (Cécille); daughter,
Florence (Ken); 2 sisters,
Josie Zarowny & Emily (Bill)
Petrashuk; 11 grandchildren; 20
great-grandchildren; numerous
nieces & nephews. Mary was
predeceased by her husband,
Joe Vogel; parents, Catherine &
Nicholaus Flasha; sisters, Anne
Hladchuk & Antonia Gozjolko.
In honour of Mary's wishes a
private family service will be
held. Pastor Kelly Sibley will be
officiating with interment in Elk
Point East Cemetery, Elk Point.
The family is extremely grateful
for the care and compassion
Mom received by all the doctors,
nurses, staff & volunteers. If
desired, donations may be made
to AHS - Parkview Extended
Care c/o 5626 - 51 Street, St.
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www.gracegardensfuneralchapel.com.**GRACE GARDENS
FUNERAL CHAPEL**
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780-645-2677**OBITUARY****SAKOWSKY,
Joseph**On December 13, 2019,
Mr. Joseph Sakowsky of Elk
Point, formerly of Derwent,
passed away at the age of
86 years. He is survived by
his sister, Marilyn Sakowski
of St. Paul; brother, Ken
(Annette) Sakowsky of Elk
Point; nieces & nephews,
Debbie, Diana, Darrell
(Ava), Kyle (Brandi), Tessa
& Krisean (Aaron); great-
nieces & nephews, Chayse,
Lincoln, Trystn, Jady, Tor,
Aksel, Jason & Jarrett. Mr.
Sakowsky was predeceased
by his parents, John & Annie
Sakowsky; sister, Olga (John)
Tulodziecki. A Funeral
Service will be held on
Friday, December 20 at 11:30
a.m. at Elk Point Seniors
Centre (Pioneer Circle),
Elk Point. Cheryl Lumley &
Deanna Reynolds will be
officiating, with interment
in St. George's Ukrainian
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780-645-2677**THANK YOU**The family of Kay Melnyk would like to thank
everyone who attended her funeral, sent flowers,
cards and food, wrote online condolences, and
made donations to St Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox
Church in her memory.Thanks to Father Lipinski and the church choir
for the beautiful service and singing, and to Grace
Gardens for their kindness and compassion.A special thanks to all who shared stories and
memories of Mom/Baba. She will be missed terribly
but will remain in our hearts and we will cherish
our memories that we have of her forever.

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parents added
some special
attractions while
hosting this
weekend's
six team
tournament,
even creating
their own edible
version of the
Stanley Cup,
topped with all
the teams' logos,
and offering draw
prizes for both
the adults and
youngsters.
Great job,
Peewee parents!

Photos submitted



Another great tournament in the books

It's a good thing we have a big parking lot. It was packed all weekend long. It felt just like Christmas shopping at the mall when you have to walk a mile. I don't care what anyone says, the Elk Point Minor Hockey parents sure know how to put on a tournament. Last week the Atom tournament was top notch. This past weekend the Pee wee tournament was fantastic as well. Six teams competing for the championship, St. Albert, Sherwood Park, St. Paul, Glendon and Bonnyville all travelling here to play in it.



was the game winner on the power play. Kaysen 'Dynamite' DeMoissac was the other goal scorer, his assisted by 'Top Gunner'. 'Bo Diddley' Fontaine going full tilt on the fore check with two assists in the game, Brendon 'Blue Line' Haesch and Raif 'Rug Rat' Evans Anderson with the other assists. The Avalanche celebrating knocking off the top undefeated team in their division. This team has a ton of talent and is a treat to watch.

doug BASSETT
Review Sports

The Pee wee Avalanche's first game was Friday night against Glendon. This game was not only a tournament game but also used as a league game as well. Glendon is the top team in the Tier Two Pee wee league, but the Avalanche were up for the challenge. 'Top Gunner' Crawford opened up the scoring three minutes into the game, assisted by his wingers 'Bo Diddley' Fontaine and Ella 'Stellar' Ballas. My old buddy Don Cherry will tell you don't try and be cute with the puck when you're the last man back. Fire it up off the glass and out across the blue line. Even some of the best players can get their pocket picked sometime. It happened on Friday night right after 'Top Gunner' Crawford scored the first goal of the game, he had his pocket picked and Glendon scored to tie the game at one. 'Top Gunner' made up for his mistake though. Twice over in fact after that, scoring two more goals to give him a hat trick. One of the goals was scored short handed to tie the game up a three all. And the last one he scored

The Avalanche's second game Saturday afternoon against Sherwood Park turned into a nasty, rough, penalty-filled affair and the outcome was not as good as hoped for by the Avalanche who dropped this one 6 to 2, 'Bo Diddley' and 'Dynamite' the goal scorers, 'Rug Rat', 'Top Gunner', 'Blue Line' and Kaleb 'Formula One' Flamand with the helpers.

Their third game on Sunday against St. Albert saw the Avalanche back on track, winning 6 to 3. 'Top Gunner' the sniper with another hat trick and added an assist, 'Formula One' with two goals, both of them scored short handed and he added an assist. 'Bo Diddley' not fiddling around finding the twine with one. The rushing defenseman Gavin 'Green Light' Kadutski with three assists, 'Rug Rat' and Madden 'Mad Dog' Flamand with one assist each. Hats off to the parents and coaching staff. Great job guys !!

The Atom Avalanche travelled south to Hughenden on Saturday, coming home with a single point in a six-all tie with the Jets. Getting the green light, defenseman Braylee 'Free Willy' Lesyk



GLENDON COMETS won the tournament, defeating Sherwood Park Grizzlies in the final. (More photos, Page 11)

going coast to coast a number of times and scoring a hat trick, Kale 'the Hawk' Ockerman with a goal and two assists, 'Smitty' Jaxon Smith with a goal, 'Boe Dog' St. George with a blast from the point scoring one. 'Boe Dog' assisted on one, too. Sneaky set up man 'Without a Trace' Morgan with three assists.

Too many times the unsung heroes don't get enough recognition. All the grinders and muckers are just as important as the goal scorers. It takes a whole team to be successful. Without the grinders and muckers, the goal scorers never get to the net to fire any shots. And the D-men save the goalies' butts all the time too, but never get the credit they deserve.

The Bantam Avalanche are a perfect example of this. They have been on a roll all season long and many of the boys don't get their names in the paper with goals or assist very often, but the coaches and fans know you guys are doing a great job all the same. Friday night, the Bantam Avalanche travelled to Cold Lake, winning 6 to 1. Four goals and an assist for 'Mick Jager' Fontaine. Dean 'the Machine' Ockerman with a goal and an assist. Cea Jay 'Quick

Draw' Quinney with a goal and two assists. Ryan 'Ram Rod' Cameron with an assist. On Sunday the Bantams travelled to Kitscoty coming home with another big 7 to 2 win. A hat trick and an assist for 'Mick Jager'. 'Kid Kade' Fontaine with a goal and an assist. Wyatt 'Wildman' Pavoll with a goal and an assist Dean 'the Machine' Ockerman and Brady 'Bionic Man' Hymanyk each with a goal.

In out of town action this past weekend, the Camrose Viking Atom Tier Two team came in second overall losing the A final to Saskatoon in a tournament held in Lloydminster at the Servus Center. One of unsung heroes I know fairly well but don't often get to watch him play. Grandson, defenseman Bode 'the Hound' Bassett scored a goal in the first game against Lloydminster and received the Heart and Hustle award in the semi final game against Macklin. He plays a lot like his daddy did. Takes no prisoners !!!

And now for the K. A. Campbell quote of the week. "Anytime you've played in a place and you get a win against your old team, it feels good." - Curtis Joseph

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kater23.....	148
wxman.....	147
guilty.....	147
Pelletb61.....	146
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